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ARCHIVES OF THE RUBINCAM-REVERCOMB FAMILY:

GERMAN DOCUMENTS.

To Which is Appended

A BRIEF GENEALOGY OF THE RUBENKAMS OF HESSEN.

By

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Purpose of this Monograph

In 1947 I published a work entitled, Report on the Genealogy of the Rubincam-Revercomb Family of Pennsylvania and Virginia, in which I traced in detail the steps that had been taken by my uncle, Albert R. Rubincam; my cousin, Arthur B. Rubincam; my more distant cousins, Col. Calvin I. Kephart and Miss Virginia R. Revercomb; and my German researchers, Dr. Carl Knetsch and Kurt Holzapfel, Dipl.Ing. (both of whom, it turned out, were also my distant kinsmen), to assemble all of the available data concerning the history of the family in Germany and America.

Many of the problems which seemed insoluble at the time have since been solved, both in the German and in the American branches. A considerable amount of information has been assembled on the parent stock in Germany, thanks to the initiative and the interest of Kurt Holzapfel, Dipl.Ing., of Eschwege, Hessen; Karl Friedrich von Frank, of Schloss Senftenegg, Post Ferschnitz, Niederösterreich, Austria; Church Councillor (Kirchenrat) Eduard Grimmell, President of the Gesellschaft für Familienkunde in Kurhessen und Waldeck (Society for Family Study in Electoral Hessen and Waldeck), Kassel, Hessen (of which I am a member); and my distant kinsmen, Kurt von Boyneburgk, of Burg Boyneburg, near Wichmannshausen, Hessen, and Heintz von Eschwege, of Reichensachsen, Hessen; and the cooperation of Dr. Hertzog, Director of the State Archives at Harburg, Hessen.

It has been my hope for many years to publish a complete genealogy of the family from our earliest proved ancestor to the present time. Such an undertaking will be time-consuming and expensive. Meanwhile, I am giving much thought to the safeguarding of the records that have accumulated in my files since my overseas investigations were begun in 1934, a quarter of a century ago. With the international situation the way it is, and the ever-present danger of a war which could wipe out the original documents which have escaped destruction during three and a half centuries of wars and other disasters, I believe that it is well to issue in mimeographed form the documents upon which the pre-American generations of our family have been constructed. Copies of this paper will be given widespread distribution --- a few to relatives and close friends who are interested, but the majority of them will be sent to libraries scattered throughout the United States. A few copies will be deposited in European libraries. Thus, in the event that my personal collections are destroyed by fire or war, the results of my researchers' work will be preserved in far distant parts of the world.

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Genealogical Chart: The Rübenkam Family of Hessen

In order to understand the documents that follow, the relationships of the German members of the family is here briefly portrayed:

Hermann Rübenkam; of Kassel, Hessen-Kassel

Friedrich Rübenkam (1598-1647); Pastor of Frielingen, Wichmannshausen, and Oetmannshausen; married Anna Gertrud Underberg

-----		-----	
"	" "	" " "	"
"	" "	" " "	"
Johann Georg (d. 1680); Burgomaster of Wanfried; m. (1) _____, and (2) _____, Elisabeth Reinrodt (Issue by both wives).	Elisabeth (1631-35) Anna Sibylla (1632-1635)	Daughter (bap. 1633) Christoph Son (died 1647)	Laurentius (d. 1681); Metropolitan of Eschwege; m. (1) Anna Gertrud Meisterlins, (2) Catharina Magdalena Schreiber (Issue by both wives)
Ancestor of the Rübenkamp family of Hannoverisch-Münden and Dresden, & Rubencamp family of New York.			
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Andreas (1642-98);
Pastor of Eschwege-
Neustadt; married
Catharina Juliana
Gleim

Anna Gertrud (1644-
1732); married (1)
Otto Beck, and (2)
Johannes Widitz.
(Issue by both husbands)

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"	"	"	" "	" " " "	"
"	"	"	" "	" " " "	"
Johann Philipp (1670- 1726); m. Margaretha Catharina Sartorius. He was Pastor of Wanfried.	Johann Friedrich (1672- 1739); Rector of the School. Eschwege	Anna Margaretha (1673-); m. Hierony- mus Wigard Dirksen, Pastor of Eschwege- Neustadt. (Issue.)	Catharina Elisabeth (b. & d. 1676) Johann Andreas (1677-); m. Catharina Elisabeth Löber.	Michael Wilhelm (1680-1734) Maria Juliana (b. & d. 1684) Johann Karl (1686-1738)	

Johann Georg Peter (1689-1766)

Pedigree of the Colonial Branch of the Family

Hermann Rübenkamp; of Kassel " " " " " "	Nicolaus Underberg (d. 1632); of Frie- lingen; m. Anna (?Rickgans?) " "	Johannes Crollius (1599-1662); Metropolitan of Hersfeld; m. Catharina Geiter " "	Lt. Col. Jost von Boyneburg Genannt Hohen- stein (1554- 1619); m. (2) Anna von Hanstein- Bornhagen "
Friedrich--m. Rübenkam (1598-1647); Pastor of Frielingen, Wichmanns- hausen, and Oetmanns- hausen "			

1. Friedrich Wilhelm (1700/02-1736); unmarried.
2. Catharina Juliana (1703-); m. Jacob Colladay;
3. Justus Wilhelm (1705-68); m. (1) Katharine Conreds, (2) Susanna Rittenhouse (ancestors of the Rubincam Family of St. Louis, Missouri).
4. Karl Wilhelm (1707-48); m. Barbara Rittenhouse (ancestors of the Rubincam Family of Bucks Co., Pa., & Chicago, Ill., Revercomb Family of Virginia, Rubincam-Rubincam Family of Pennsylvania, Rubencame Family of Delaware).
5. Anna Catharina (1709-70); married John Wister.
- 6-7. Johanna Catharina (b. 1711) & Margaretha Catharina (1713).

Autobiography of Friedrich Rübenkam

The following is a translation of the autobiography of our ancestor, Friedrich Rübenkam, preserved in the parish registers of Wichmannshausen, Hessen, Germany. A photograph of the original document was transmitted to me by Dr. Carl Knetsch, Director of the State Archives at Marburg, Hessen, in 1937:

Pastor Fridericus Rubecam, the Kasseler, formerly resided at Kassel, after which he completed his studies at Marburg from 1616 to 1619, inclusive; from there he went to Fri(e)lingen in the parish of Hersfeld, where for four years he gave instructions to members of noble families, and in 1626, after the death of the local pastor, Ludovicus Waldenberger, he applied for the vacancy and was nominated by Inspector Henrico of the parish of Hersfeld, and was confirmed; from that year until 1629 he served there as pastor, but in the same year he and others were removed from that bishopric and he lived in exile for three years until 1631, when he was appointed pastor in his home town, and served there until 1633. However, in that same year he moved to Fulda Parish, and remained there until driven out with great loss by the invasion of the Croatsians. He was then out of employment for an entire year, until he accepted a vacancy in the ruined and burned town of Wichmannshausen, remaining there for a number of years.

Note on the Father and Brother of Friedrich Rübenkam

Until recently there was no clue to the parentage of Friedrich Rübenkam, our first proved ancestor. A Hans Caspar Rubecam, who died at Abterode in 1635, as we shall see presently, was believed to be either his father or his brother. But on 16 September 1959, Kirchenrat Eduard Grimmell, of Kassel, informed me that recently he had examined the confirmation records in the Kassel parish registers in the State Archives at Marburg, and saw two entries of interest to us, namely: In 1609 Friedrich Rübecamp, was confirmed at the age of 11; his father's name was given as Herrmann Rübecamp. And at Christmas 1614, another son of Herrmann's, Jacob Rübecamp, aged 13, was confirmed. With these clues kindly provided through Mr. Grimmell's alertness, I plan to have further researches made in order to confirm the fact that Friedrich was Herrmann Rübecamp's son.

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Records from the Parish Registers of Frielingen

After his graduation from the University of Harburg, in 1619, Friedrich Rübenkam became a tutor in the noble families of Spede and von Hanstein, at Frielingen, in the territories of the former Abbey of Hersfeld; the latter place is situated at the point where the Haun and Geis Rivers branch off from the Fulda. The following records from the Frielingen parish registers were transmitted to me by Kurt Holzapfel on 18 February 1948:

1632 mortui et sepulti
(Deaths and Burials):

Socer meus Nicolaus Underberg
obiit 5t. 10bris.
(My father-in-law, Nicolaus Underberg,
died 5 December 1632.)

1633 babtizati (Baptisms):

Filiola mea den 2t. Maji, patrina
J. Johann Rudolff Speden uxor atque
socra mea.
(My little daughter was baptized on 2
May. The godparents were Junker
Johann Rudolf Spede's wife and my
mother-in-law.)

Pastor Rübenkam made the following entry in the Frielingen church registers after his restoration to that parish in 1631:

2do die 10bris Anno 1631, postquam papistae
tribus fere annis in Abbatia Hersfeldensi floru-
erunt, illustrissimus atque potentissimus princeps
Wilhelmus Hassiae Landgravius ibidem vi atque gladio
jus suum obtinuit, nosque antea remotos pastores in
pristinum quemlibet locum clementer restitui jussit,
concionem primam habui dominica secunda adventus,
facit deus ter opt. maximus ut omnia prospera ad
nominis divini laudem atque ecclesiae salutem vergant.

FRIDERICUS RUBECAM p. tempore
pastor Frilingae

primo die ante nativit. M. psalmos Davidis de
Lobwasser canere incepimus initium factum cum
psalmo 130 de profundus Ao. 1631.

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(Translation from Latin to German by
Kurt Holzapfel):

am 2. Dezember 1631, nachdem das Papsttum fast
3 Jahre in der Abtei Hersfeld geherrscht hat,
behauptete der sehr berühmte und mächtige Fürst
Wilhelm, Landgraf von Hessen dort mit Gewalt und
Schwert sein Recht und befahl, das wir vorher
vertriebenen Pfarrer in den jeweiligen früheren
Platz gnädig wieder eingesetzt wurden. Ich habe
den ersten Gottesdienst am 2. Adventssonntag ge-
halten. Der dreimal grösste und beste Gott macht,
das alles glücklich zum Lob des göttlichen Namens
und zum Heil der Kirchen sich wendet.

FRIEDRICH RÜBENKAM, zur Zeit
Pfarrer in Frielingen.

Am 1. Weihnachtstag 1631 haben wir begonnen, die
Psalmen Davids von Lobwasser zu singen und den
Anfang mit dem Psalm 130 -- Aus der Tiefe -- gemacht.

(Translation from German to English by
Dr. Albert H. Gerberich, Bethesda, Md.):

On 2 December 1631, after the Papacy had ruled in
the Abbey of Hersfeld for almost 3 years, the Most
Illustrious and Powerful Prince Wilhelm, Landgrave
of Hessen, took possession by force and with the
sword, and commanded that we preachers who had been
previously driven away should be graciously restored
to our former place. I held the first divine service
on the second Sunday in Advent. God, thrice great
and thrice good, has brought it about that everything
turned out happily for the praise of His Divine
Name and for the glory of the Church.

FRIEDRICH RÜBENKAM, for the time being
Pastor at Frielingen.

On the first Christmas Day 1631 we all began to
sing Lobwasser's Psalms of David, and began with
Psalm 130 -- Out of the depths.

(Note: Lobwasser was the author of the first
Hessian hymn-book. "The first Christmas Day"
in 1631, was probably 24 December, the first
day of a 3-day celebration.)

In the same letter of 8 February 1948, Mr. Holzapfel stated
that according to the Frielingen parish registers, the wife
of Friedrich Rübenkam was godmother of her servant girls
Gela and Catharina, in 1632 and 1634, and on 12 January
1634, she was godmother of a daughter of Curdt Bickell.

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Records from the Parish Register of Abterode

The Hessian village of Abterode, which has a population in excess of 1,350, is situated a few miles northwest of Eschwege. Pastor Friedrich Rübenkam twice sought refuge here, the first time after Emperor Ferdinand II's Edict of Restitution drove him from Frielingen, in the territories of Hersfeld (1629), and the second time after the Croatian invasion of 1635. The following entries in the Abterode church register relate to the family of Friedrich Rübenkam and his wife, the former Anna Gertrud Underberg:

Begrabene (B u r i a l s)

5 Oktober 1635: Anna Sybilla, aged 3 years,
the little daughter of Rev.
Friedrich Rubecam, and
Elisabeth, aged 4 years
the little daughter of Rev.
Friedrich Rubecam.
(Anna Sybilla, Ehr. Friederich
Rubecams d'ochterlein 3 Jahre
alt und
Elisabeth, Ehr. Friederich
Rubecams d'ochterlein, 4 Jahre
alt.)

14 Oktober 1635: Anna, Claus Unterbergs relict.
(Anna, Claus [i.e. Nicolaus]
Underberg's widow.)

30 Oktober 1635: Hans Caspar Rubecam

4 November 1635: Hedwig, Elisabeth Und berg's
daughter, aged 10 years
(Hedwig, Elisabeth Und bergs
dochter, 10 Jahre alt.)

20 February 1677: Elsa, Claus Gercke the Wagoner's
widow, 92 years old.
(Elsa, Claus Gercken, Fuhrmann's
relict, 92 Jahre alt.)

The foregoing records were transmitted to me in a letter from Kurt Holzapfel, Dipl. Ing., Eschwege, Hessen, 12 November 1949.

Records from the Parish Registers of Oetmannshausen

On 24 October 1937 Dr. Carl Knetsch, Director of the State Archives at Harburg, Hessen, sent me abstracts of entries in the Oetmannshausen parish registers. I have translated them as follows:

BAPTISMS

5 December 1654: Laurentius, son of the late Herr Magister Rübecamb, was godfather to Laurentius, son of Philipp Preijs.

21 April 1655: Gertrut, widow of the late Herr Magister Rübecamb, was godmother to Gertrud, daughter of Johannes Messerschmidt.

19 February 1665: Christoph Rübecam, of Breidenbach, was godfather to Christoph, son of his brother-in-law, Otto Beck, and his sister, wife of Otto.

24 February 1667: Johann Georg Rübecam, Tax-Collector of Eschwege (Herr Rentmeister von Eschwege), was godfather to Johann Georg, son of his brother-in-law, Otto Beck, and his sister, Otto's wife.

11 July 1669: Magister Laurentius Rübecam, pastor at Eschwege-Neustadt, was godfather to Laurentius, son of Otto Beck.

19 February 1684: Mrs. Catharina Juliana, wife of Andreas Rübecamb, pastor at Eschwege-Neustadt, was godmother to Catharina Juliana, daughter of Johannes Widitz.

CONFIRMATIONS

Easter 1654: Andreas, son of Magister Rübecam, formerly pastor at this very place, aged 12 years.

Easter 1658: Anna Gertrud, daughter of the late Herr Magister Rübecam, 14 years old.

MARRIAGE

1660: Otto Beck and Anna Gertrud, daughter of the late Herr Magister Rübecam, 15 October.

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BURIAL

1681: Gerdrut, widow of the late Mr. Fridericus Rübecam, formerly pastor at this very place, the 11th February.

(Gerdrut, Herrn Friderici Rübecams, gewesen Pfarrers seeligen alhier relict, den 11 Februarii.)

MARRIAGE

1 March 1682: Johannes Widitz, of Datterode, widower, and Anna Gertrut, widow of the late Otto Beck.

(1682 1 März: Johannes Widitz von Datterode, Wittwer, und Anna Gertrut, Otto Beckens seel. relict.)

BURIAL

30 May 1696: Johannes Widitz.

(His widow was buried 23 December 1732, aged 88 years less 9 weeks.)

Record of the death of Pastor Friedrich Rübekam

On 18 June 1938, Kurt Holzappel, of Eschwege, informed me that the Oetmannshausen church registers commence in 1650. However he was fortunate enough to ascertain the death date of the minister from an official record maintained by Superintendent Johannes Hütterodt: 3.IV.1647 Herr Rubekam and his son both died.

Records from the Parish Registers of Eschwege-Altstadt

On 11 December 1937, the Evangelisches Pfarramt (Ev. Kirchenbuchamt) at Eschwege-Altstadt transmitted data from the registers in its custody concerning the family of Laurentius Rübekam, Metropolitan of Eschwege, one of the sons of Pastor Friedrich Rübekam, of Oetmannshausen. I have translated these data as follows:

MARRIAGE

4 September 1666: Magister Rubecam married Gerdrut Meisterlingk at Wanfried.

BAPTISM

3 September 1667: Gude Elisabeth. Father: Magister Lorentz Riebkam. Godmother: The Chief Magistrate's wife.

(Gude Elisabeth died in June 1668.)

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DEATH

9 January 1674: The wife of H. Laurentius Rübenkam. Buried at Wanfried.

MARRIAGE

18 February 1675: H(err) H(agister) Laurentius Rübenkam, Chief Pastor at this very place and Metropolitan of the District of Eschwege, and Miss Catharina Magdalena Schreiber, legitimate daughter of Mr. Justus Heinrich Schreiber, the Princely Hessen-Rheinfels Tax-Collector in this very place.

(H. Mag. Laurentius Rübecam, Oberpfarrer allhier und Metropolitaneus der Classe Eschwege, Undt Jungfrau Catharina Magdalena Schreiber, H. Justi Henrich Schreibers Fürstl. Hess. Rheinfelsischen Rentmeisters allhier.eheleibliche Tochter.)

CHILDREN OF THE RÜBENKAM - SCHREIBER MARRIAGE

2 December 1675. Baptized: Cadter Magdalen.
Father: H. Mag. Laurentius Rübenkam, Metropolitan at this very place. Godmother: The wife of the Princely Hessen-Rheinfels Tax-Collector Mr. Justus Henrich Schreiber.
(Cadter Magdalen died 5 August 1676.)

12 December 1676: Baptized: Johann Heinrich.
Father: H. H. Laurentius Rübenkam, Metropolitan.
Godfather: Mr. Johannes Kröschell, Rector at Allendorf.
(Johann Henrich was confirmed at Eschwege in 1690.)

1 May 1678: Baptized: Anna Gerdruth. Father: H. H. Laurentius Rübenkam, Metropolitan.
Godmother: The widow of the late Mr. Friderich Rübenkam, formerly Pastor at Othmannshausen.

27 August 1679: Baptized: Justus Henrich. Father: H. H. Laurentius Rübenkam, Metrop. Godfather: The Tax-Collector Justus Henrich Schreiber.
(Justus Henrich died at Eschwege, 11 January 1681.)

DEATH

8 August 1681: H. H. Laurentius Rübenkam, Metropolitanus.

DEATH

26 May 1694. The widow of the former Metropolitan, H. H. Laurentius Rübenkam.

Records from the Parish Registers of Reichensachsen

In 1953 Kirchenrat Eduard Grimmell, of Kassel, discovered a clue to the parentage of Margaretha Catharina, widow of Johann Philipp Rübencam and foundress of the Rubincam-Revercomb Family in this country (1726). (Johann Philipp was the eldest son of Andreas, who was a son of Pastor Friedrich Rübencam.) Mr. Grimmell immediately communicated his findings to our two valued investigators, Kurt Holzapfel, Dipl.Ing., of Eschwege, Hessen, and Karl Friedrich von Frank, of Schloss Senftenegg, Post Ferschnitz, Niederösterreich, Austria, whom he knew were working on the problem. Independently of each other, they caused the Reichensachsen church registers to be searched, and established beyond a reasonable doubt that Margaretha Catharina Rübencam, was the daughter of Matthias Sartorius, Pastor of Wichmannshausen, by his wife, Anna Juliana von Boyneburg genannt Hohenstein, member of an ancient and illustrious Hessian noble house. The Reichensachsen church registers are transcripts; if the original registers have been preserved, their location is not known. Dr. Herzog, Director of the State Archives at Harburg, informed the author that the Archives has the original Reichensachsen registers only for the period 1639-53, and not for the later period. The pertinent records follow:

MARRIAGE

Anno 1699 d. 19t. Julii Ehren Joh: Philipp Rübencam Pfarrer zu Wartens u. Jgfr: Martha Catharina, Ehren: M. Nerten Sa: P. Wichmannshausen Tocht:

(This transcript has several errors.

Wartens should be Wanfried, and Nerten Sa: should be Matthias Sartorius. Martha is a contraction of Margaretha.)

Translation: 19 July 1699. Reverend Johann Philipp Rübencam Pastor at Wanfried and Miss Mar(gare)tha Catharina, daughter of Reverend Matthias Sartorius, Pastor at Wichmannshausen.

BAPTISM

Anno 1684. Dies d. 26. Febr: Infans: Margreth Catharina. Parens: M. Matthias Sartorius. Compater Frl: Martha Catharina Trottin.

Translation: 26 February 1684. Infant: Margreth Catharina. Parent: M(agister) Matthias Sartorius. Godmother: Mar(gare)tha Catharina Trottin.

MARRIAGE

Anno 1680 d. 14 Okt: M. Matthias Sartorius und Jgfr. Anna Juliana von Boyneburg get. Hoenstein.

Translation: 14 October 1680. M(agister) Matthias Sartorius and Miss Anna Juliana von Boyneburg genannt Hohenstein.

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Extract from the Parish Registers of Wanfried

On 7 June 1957, Pastor Bennewitz, of Wanfried, sent to me a photocopy of the burial record of Anna Juliana(v. Boyneburg gen. Hohenstein) Sartorius. The original entry was in the handwriting of her son-in-law, Pastor Johann Philipp Rübenkam, and completely confirms the records set forth in the transcripts of the Reichensachsen parish registers:

1 7 0 3

Den 1 Februarii ist weiland H. Magistri Matthiae Sartorii gewesener Pfarrer zu Wichmannshausen und Hoheneiche nachgelassene Wittib Frau Anna Juliana geborene von Boyneburg genant von Hohnstein zu Reichensachsen allhier begraben und alt worden 57 Jahre weniger 3 Monate.

Translation:

1 February Mrs. Anna Juliana born von Boyneburg genannt Hohenstein of Reichensachsen, widow of the late Mag. Matthias Sartorius formerly pastor at Wichmannshausen and Hoheneiche is buried in this very place, aged 57 years less 3 months.

[N o t e: The title of Magister, borne by Friedrich and Laurentius Rübenkam, and Matthias Sartorius, was the equivalent of the H.A. degree in England. It entitled them to teach in the schools of the Hessian principality.]

Record from the Parish Registers of Berleburg

Early in 1717 Johann Philipp Rübenkam, who had been Reformed pastor at Wanfried since 1698, was banished from his town because of his open advocacy of Pietism. He retired to Berleburg, capital of the countship of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburg, which was friendly to Pietists. On 14 November 1948, Kurt Holzapfel forwarded to me a certified copy of Pastor Rübenkam's burial record:

Anno 1725 d. 25ten Februarii ist alhier in der Hille begraben worden H. Rübenkam, gewesener Prediger zu Mannfried in Hessen.

(Church Registers of the Evangelical Reformed Community at Berleburg, Volume III, 1693-1728, page 70.)

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Abstracts from the Records of the Abterode Court of Justice
On 11 December 1949, Kurt Holzapfel reported the results of his researches in the Währschaftsbuch (Gerichtsbuch, in which the transfers of real estate are recorded) preserved in the Court of Justice at Abterode. He found two entries which throw a light on the family of Pastor Friedrich Rübenkam's wife's ancestry, as follows:

1651 Rickgansische Erben haben desvor ihre Mühle zu Abterode gelegen, die Thammühle genannt samt der dazu gehörigen Wiese vnd Flecken Landes H. Johann Philips Arnolten, Vogt zu Frankershausen verkauft vor vnd umb 150 Thlr zu 32 alb. Demnach sich aber von gedachten Erben 4 Stemme beschweret ob wehre die mühle zu wohlfeil verkaufft, als ist durch Unterhandlung der Obrigkeit die Sache in Güte dahin verglichen worden, das selbige 56 Thl. zum nachschuss von H. Vogten gegeben werden, worauf dan die Erben die Wehrschaft geboten.

Nicolas Gercke wegen Nicolas Unterbergs stamm

Maria Stuntzin vor sich selbst

Magnus Leimbach wegen Friederich Leimbachs stamm

Hans Rudeloff wegen Johannis Curaei stamm

Hans Lünne wegen Simon Löbers stamm

The above is Mr. Holzapfel's abstract. Below is my English version:

The heirs of a family named Rickgans (Rückgans ?) sold their mill-dam at Abterode to Mr. Johann Philipp Arnolt, Bailiff of Franckershausen, for 150 Thalers. The heirs were divided into five branches, as follows:

- (1) Nicolaus Gercke, representing Nicolaus Underberg's branch;
- (2) Maria Stuntzin, representing her own branch;
- (3) Magnus Leimbach, representing Friedrich Leimbach's branch;
- (4) Hans Rudeloff, representing Johannes Curaeus' branch;
- (5) Hans Lünne, representing Simon Löber's branch.

The second record abstracted by Mr. Holzapfel follows:

26. März 1669 H. (=Herr) Johann Georg Rubekamb zu Rothenburg, gewesener Renthmeister zu Eschwege, ist dem Obristen Jost von Hundelshausen Erbsassen zu Harmuthsachsen Schuldig funfhundert Reichsthl. in specie, so er zu Fürstl. behuef erborget. Verschreibet alle seine redisse guther sie beyen od. liegen wo sie wollen, mit begebung aller beneficien, vnd zu sterkerer Versicherung setzt Er zu Burgen und selbst Schuldnerin seine Mutter Gertruth Rubekamin vnd Elisabeth, Claus Gercken sel. Witiben vff der Freyheit alhier welche vor gemelte Summ Capitals,

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Zinss vnd Unkosten vnd schaden, sich selbst Schuldig eingelassen, vnd zu Versicherung Verschreiben, ihr hauss, hoof, garthen vnd Scheuren, auch Acker vnd wiesen, in specie Einen acker land hinter der Freyheit, Ein acker alten hoefe, It. Ein acker im kupferbache, Item 1/2 acker in der kupfergassen, It. 1/2 ack. vf der kalkrössen vnd 3/4 ack. am Mittelberge gelegen, Sambt allen ihren haab vnd guthern, beweg vnd vnbeweglichen, mit Verzicht aller vnd jeder Weiblichen gerechtigkeiten, wie die benampt vnd sie erinnert werden. pp. des Saltzgrafen Coriarii, Renthmeister Hupfelts, in Sooden vnd Ambschl. Surbicks wie auch S.S.M. & 2 Zeugen. Vnd soll diss Capitahl jarlich mit 25 Rthl. vf Martini Tag verpensionirt werden, vnd die Vffkundung ein Viertel jahr Vorher beschehen.

The English abstract follows:

26 March 1669: Mr. Johann Georg Rubekamb at Rotenburg (on the Fulda), formerly Tax-Collector at Eschwege, borrowed 500 Reichsthalers in specie from Col. Jost von Hundelshausen, Erbsass at Harnuthsachsen, for the use and behoof of the Prince (presumably Landgrave Ernst, of Hessen-Rheinfels). For the payment of this debt he pledged all of his property, wherever it might be or lie, with all of its benefits and privileges, and as sureties he named not only himself but his mother, Gertruth Rubekamin (-in is the German feminine endings for surnames), and Elisabeth, wife of the late Claus Gercke. As securities he listed his house, farm, garden, and barns, and also his fields and meadows; specifically, he named the following pieces of property owned by him: (1) one acre of land behind the Freiheit; (2) one acre of the old farms (einacker alten hoefe); (3) one acre along the Kupferbach (Copper Brook, evidently the name of a brook at or near Abterode); (4) one acre on the Kupfergasse (name of a street, perhaps the street or road leading to the Kupferbach); (5) one acre "vf der kalkrössen"; and (6) 3/4 of an acre on the Mittelberg (a hill near Abterode), together with all of his goods and chattels, movable and immovable, etc. The foregoing document was drawn up before the Salzgraf Coriarius, Tax-Collector Hupfelt, of Sooden, a court official named Surbicke, and two witnesses.

The sum borrowed was to be repaid annually in installments of 25 Reichsthalers on St. Martin's Day, and the notice thereof was to be issued a quarter of a year in advance.

Mr. Holzapfel, searching the records of the Court of Justice at Bilstein, learned that among those subject to rent at Abterode, and living near each other, were Nicolaus Underberg and Georg Rickgans (presumably a son of Bernhard).

Records of the University of Marburg

The following matriculation records of our family are from Catalogus Studiosorum Scholae Marburgensis, published over a period of years from 1872 to 1913. The University of Marburg was founded in 1527 by Landgrave Philipp the Magnanimous of Hessen, and was the first Protestant university.

- 1617. Fridericus Rubenka Casselanus. Decembris 3.
- 1657. die 27. Jan. Laurentius Rubenka Othmannshusanus.
- 1660. v^a Maij. Andreas Rubenka Eschwegensis.
- 1686. Majus 26ten. Johannes Georgius Beck, Othmannshausia Hassus.
- 1687. d.25.EjUSD. (i.e. Aprilis). Johannes Philippus Rubenkaenius Eschwea-Hassus.
- 1688. d.13.Novembris. Johann Friderich Rubenka Eschwea-Hassus.
- 1696. Junii die 9. Johannes Andreas Rubenka Eschweg. Hassus.
- 1696. Sept. die 19. Michael Wilhelm Rubenka, Eschweensis Cattus.

These records pertain to Pastor Friedrich Rübenka; his sons, the Metropolitan Laurentius and Pastor Andreas; four of Andreas' sons, Johann Philipp, Johann Friedrich, Johann Andreas, and Michael Wilhelm; and Johann Georg Beck, son of Otto Beck and Anna Gertrud, daughter of Pastor Friedrich Rübenka.

Records of the Herborn High School

Johann Heinrich Rübenka, son of the Metropolitan Laurentius, was educated at the High School (miscalled University by some writers) at Herborn, countship of Nassau-Dillenburg. The following record of his matriculation is from Die Matrikel der Hohen Schule und die Paedagogiums zu Herborn, edited by Gottfried Zedler and Hans Sommer (1908), page 136:

- 1692. Johannes Henricus Rübenkaebius, Eschwegia-Hassus.

Records of the Hersfeld Gymnasium

On 21 March 1950, Frau Hildegard Schäfer-Kafry, of Eisenach, Thuringia, sent to me the following record concerning Johann Peter, son of Johann Georg Rübenka, tax-collector at Eschwege (son of Pastor Friedrich) from Die Stiftsruine. Zeitschrift für Vorgeschichte, Geschichte, Volks- und Heimatgeschichte, No. 15, page 120:

- (1669): Joh. Peter Rübenka, quaestoris Eschwege, fil. III."

Documents in the State Archives at Marburg

On 28 April 1936, Dr. Carl Inetsch, Director of the State Archives at Marburg, Hessen-Nassau (now the State of Hessen), transmitted to me ten documents in the Archives; translations follow.

1. Recommendation written by Magister Laurentius Rübenkam, Metropolitan of Eschwege, 1675:

Noble Baron, Members of the Kassel Consistorium, President, Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and other spiritual and temporal Councillors.

I respectfully wish to inform you that Jacobus Methe, son-in-law of Johann Heyse, Pastor of Othmannshausen, who has for over twenty weeks assisted his father-in-law as an adjunctus (assistant), has requested me to address this petition to the Consistorium. It is well known locally that Johann Heyse can not properly perform his duties because of bodily infirmities and he also desires hereby to make known in writing his wishes in this matter to the Consistorium. The appointment and confirmation of an assistant is necessary for the proper administering of the holy sacraments and it would be especially pleasing to the aged pastor if his son-in-law, Jacobus Methe, were found qualified to serve as his adjunctus, as the said Methe is a person of good character.

For these reasons, this petition is respectfully submitted to the Consistorium.
Eschwege, 4 May 1675.

Your faithful servant

L. LAURENTIUS RUBENKAM, Dean.

(Address:)

To the Noble Baron, Members of the Kassel Consistorium, President, Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and other spiritual and temporal Councillors.
Presentation: 7 May 1675.

Note:-

The title of Dean, used on this occasion by Laurentius, is a local one and has the same meaning as Metropolitan, namely, the equivalent of Bishop. Other titles having the same significance are Superintendent and Inspector.

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2. Application of Johann Philipp Rübenkam for the vacant
pastorate of Wanfried, 1697: (To Landgrave Carl:)

Most Serene Prince, Most Gracious Prince and Lord:

You are respectfully informed that Almighty God has, in His infinite wisdom, called into eternity my cousin, Johann Gleim, formerly the faithful pastor of the town of Wanfried, and that by his death the office of pastor at Wanfried has become vacant. As then this office must be filled by another worthy person and this appointment must be made by Your Serene Highness, and whereas I and my dependents have always been favored with your kindness, and, as your father of blessed memory in the year 1692 graciously conferred on me the rescript and expectancy for the office of pastor of Wanfried, and [you] confirmed it in the year 1694, I therefore submit to Your Serene Highness my petition requesting you to favor me by nominating me at the Kassel Consistory [Consistorium] for this vacancy. I assure Your Serene Highness most earnestly that I will take care of the sorrowful widow and children, who place confidence in me, so that my appointment to this office will be a great consolation to them, especially since my deceased cousin, who always entertained so great a regard for you, had intended to intercede for me, but was prevented therefrom by being too weak to sign with his own hand and by his sudden death. As Your Serene Highness may order as you choose in this matter, I have the utmost confidence that my petition will not be in vain and that just as you have favored me in the past you will now assist me to take the place of my deceased cousin, which great favor I will, during all my lifetime, repay by my great respect and sense of duty toward you and your Princely House.

Wanfried, 16 October 1697.

Your faithful subject and
servant of God,

JOH. PH. RUBENKAM.

N o t e s:-

- a. The Prince to whom this petition was addressed, was Landgrave Carl of Hessen-Rheinfels, who had succeeded his father, Landgrave Ernst, in 1693, and ruled jointly with his brother, Landgrave Wilhelm (the Elder).
- b. The "cousin" to whom Joh. Ph. Rübenkam wished to succeed, was in reality his maternal uncle, Pastor Johannes Gleim, younger brother of Catharina Juliana (Gleim), wife of Pastor Andreas Rübenkam.

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3. Landgrave Carl's approval of Johann Philipp Rübenkam's application for the vacant pastorate of Wanfried, 1697:

Whereas the applicant, Johann Philipp Rübenkam, petitioned for the office of pastor at Wanfried in 1692 and after the death of our father we confirmed this expectancy in the year 1694, and the applicant has frequently given proof of his diligence in such work and is therefore competent to lead a community, and it has happened that by the death of the Wanfried pastor, Johann Gleimius, such an office has become vacant, and it is incumbent upon us to make nominations for the said office, we have approved the application of the aforesaid party and after he has, according to law, appeared before our brother, we will submit his name to the Kassel Consistory.

Given at Vienna, 6 November 1697.

CARL, Landgrave of Hessen-Rheinfels.

4. Johann Philipp Rübenkam's application to Landgrave Wilhelm the Elder, 1697:

Most Serene Prince, Most Gracious Prince and Lord:

You are respectfully informed that your noble brother, the Most Serene Prince and Lord, Carl, Landgrave of Hessen, has nominated me to fill the vacancy for the office of pastor at Wanfried, created by the death of the former pastor, Johann Gleimius. In order to obtain the approval of Your Serene Highness, I now make application therefor and request you to favor me by confirming your noble brother's consent with your own. Your kind trust in me will be repaid in my prayers to God during all my life.

Your Serene Highness's

faithful subject and servant of God,

JOH. PH. RÜBENKAM.

Rotenburg, 8 November 1697.

5. Johann Philipp Rübenkam's application to the Rotenburg Chancery, 1697:

Whereas I was nominated by Landgrave Carl for the office of pastor of Wanfried, and also obtained the consent of Landgrave Wilhelm, I now desire to notify and respectfully request you to present me to the Kassel Consistory to be confirmed and admitted to an examination, which great favor I will properly repay with my most respectful gratitude.

Rotenburg, 9 November 1697.

Your faithful servant,

JOH. PH. RÜBENKAM.

(On reverse side:)

Since I have been appointed by Landgrave Carl to the office of pastor of Wanfried and have obtained the consent of Landgrave Wilhelm, I, Johann Philipp Rübenkam of Eschwege now request that I be presented to the Consistory for confirmation.

Presentation: Rotenburg, 10 November 1697.

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6. Hessen-Rheinfels Chancery's request for Johann Philipp Rübencam's appointment as pastor of Wanfried, 1697:

Your Highness and our members are probably aware that recently Pastor Gleimius of Wanfried suddenly passed away and that thereby this office has become vacant. You, our Prince and Master, Carl, Landgrave of Hessen-Rheinfels, totus titulus, and master of the aforesaid pastor, have, by virtue of the authority granted you, conferred upon Johann Philipp Rübencammen, the candidate, a rescript dated at Vienna, 6 November 1697, which was approved by Wilhelm, Landgrave of Hessen-Rheinfels, totus titulus, and another rescript dated 19 September 1697, at Rotenburg approved by our Prince and Lord. We therefore request you to confirm the appointment of Johann Philipp Rübencammen as is customary and we have no doubt that you will admit him to an examination such as is required by the urgency of his case.

Rotenburg, 10 November 1697.

HESSEN-RHEINFELS CHANCERY

To the Kassel Consistory.

From 1697 to 1716 the documents relative to the career of Johann Philipp Rübencam seem to be missing; at least they were not known to exist when Dr. Knetsch made his search of the State Archives at Marburg. We know from the following documents that Pastor Rübencam gradually moved away from the tenets of the Reformed (Calvinist) Church of Hessen; in which he and his ancestors for several generations had served faithfully as clergymen. He adopted the Pietist faith, and ultimately, in December 1716 or January 1717, was unfrocked and sought refuge at Berleburg, the capital of the countship of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburg, which was friendly in its attitude toward Pietists and other separatists. Meanwhile, in 1711, Landgrave Carl of Hessen-Rheinfels died, and was succeeded by his son, Landgrave Wilhelm the Younger, who reigned jointly with his uncle, Landgrave Wilhelm the Elder.

Our ancestor is mentioned by Reinhold Strauss in his Chronik der Stadt Wanfried (1908), page 99: "1698. Pfarrer Philipp Rübencamp wird am 2. Juni in sein Amt eingeführt" (Pastor Philipp Rübencamp was installed in his office on 2 June [1698]). We suggest that in view of the fact he was recommended for confirmation in November 1697, that "2. Juni" 1698 should be "2. Januar".

7. Letter from Landgrave Wilhelm the Younger, concerning Johann Philipp Rübencam's illness and the choice of his successor, 1716: (To the Rotenburg Chancery:)

We, by the Grace of God, Wilhelm the Younger, Landgrave of Hessen, Prince of Hersfeldt, Count of Katzenellnbogen, Dietz, Ziegenhain, Nidda and Schaumburg.

Greetings to you noble and learned men.

We have recently learned from various sources and also from our Steward, von Eyssenberg, that Pastor Rübekam of Wanfried is in such poor health due to overwork that his recovery and convalescence are despaired of by all persons. Now since no doubt many persons will present themselves to solicit the office which will probably be vacated by the death of this pastor and we were informed by our Chancellor Crause that his brother who had been pastor for five years at Dippach in the Bacharach Circuit in the Electoral Palatinate, of his own initiative and inclination desired to spend the rest of his life in Lower Hessen, his fatherland, and to exercise his profession and calling as minister there and since, furthermore, for such spiritual service we prefer, above all, qualified natives who have the necessary learning and habits of life in conformity with a spiritual calling and have duly informed ourselves of the said Pastor Georg Crause, who has certificates and attestations of his fitness and conduct from the Electoral Palatinate to be submitted to the Kassel Consistory, if required, and thereby give proofs of his efficiency in person. Now, therefore, in view of the foregoing, we have approved the petition of our Chancellor's brother, and order you men, in the event of the death of the said pastor of Wanfried and the vacancy created thereby or in the event of the vacancy of some other suitable office of pastor and we are competent to make the appointment, to submit the nomination of the said pastor, Georg Crause, promptly and without further orders, to the Kassel Consistory and to desist from and prevent the occurrence of anything that might cause a neglect of these instructions.

Schwalbach, 2 April 1716.

WILHELM, L(andgrave) of Hessen.

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8. Letter of Landgrave Wilhelm the Elder to the Rotenburg Chancery concerning Johann Philipp Rübencam's apostasy, 1716:

By the Grace of God, Wilhelm the Elder,
Landgrave of Hessen, Prince of Hersfeldt, Count
of Katzenellenbogen, Dietz, Ziegenhain, Nidda and
Schaumburg.

Our greetings to you, noble and learned men.

We have been reliably informed that the present Pastor Rübencam at Wanfried, after many remonstrances and exhortations, still refuses to abandon his erroneous concepts and pietisms, and to conform to the Reformed religion as introduced into Hessen; that the Kassel Consistory has proceeded to remove the said pastor from his office and at the same time, since his parochial office should not be vacant long, and it is our duty to make the nomination, and our noble and friendly cousin [i.e. nephew], Landgrave Wilhelm the Younger, desires that we nominate Georg Crause, brother of his Chancellor Crause, who is now pastor at Dippach in Kreis Bacharach in the Electoral Palatinate, we, therefore, give our consent thereto, because the said Chancellor has been a worthy servant of our House and the candidate has the qualities and merits required for the proper and efficient administration of his office. Therefore, you are ordered to prepare the necessary nomination rescript for the said Pastor Georg Crause in the customary manner, forward it to the Kassel Consistory and disregard all other expectations for the said office.

Schwalbach 7 December 1716.

W. L(andgrave) of Hessen.

(On reverse side:)

Although the removal from office of Pastor Rübencam will not occur for the present, you are instructed to recommend the nomination of Pastor Crause, regarding this document as an unchangeable expression of my will, and guide yourselves accordingly in the event the removal of Rübencam occurs in the future.

(Address:) To the learned General Chancery
of Rotenburg.

(Presentation:) Rotenburg, 27 December 1716.

In re: Wanfried parochial service and
appointment of pastor.

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9. Johann Christoph Lautermann's application for the Wanfried pastorate, 1716:

To the Members of the noble and learned General Chancery of Hessen-Rheinfels at Rotenburg.

I have received a reliable message from Kassel stating that the pastor of Wanfried, Rübenkam, has been removed from office because of his heterodoxy and great corruption, and that yesterday, being Sunday, he preached his last sermon. Since this vacated office must be filled with another pastor and I have received the enclosed rescript from our Prince and Lord, Landgrave Wilhelm the Elder, I therefore pray you noble men to prepare the customary nomination for me who have been for nearly eight years in the local Altstadt community and have so lived and conducted myself that I hope no complaint can be made against me. I will be grateful all my life for such a great favor and send my prayers to God in Heaven for a blessing on your high judicial office.

JOH. CHRISTOPH LAUTERMAN

(On reverse side:)

In re: Application of the local Deacon Lautermann for the office of pastor of Wanfried.
(Presentation:) Rotenburg, 14 December 1716.

10. The Rotenburg Chancery's confirmation of Pastor Georg Crause to succeed Pastor Johann Philipp Rübenkam at Wanfried, 1717:

It has been announced that Pastor Ruebencamm of Wanfried has left the service and would be degraded. However, we have not yet received any such notification and have no certainty of this occurrence. Whereas, in the event of such removal, Landgrave Wilhelm, by virtue of his right (ordo nominandi) to name a successor, desires to nominate Georg Crause, now pastor at Dippach, Kröis-Bacharach, in the Electoral Palatinate, and instructs us to prepare the customary documents, we have therefore complied with his order in this judicial body and confirmed the nomination.

Rotenburg, 16 January 1717.

CHANCERY.

To the Kassel Consistory.

(On reverse side:)

Nomination document for Pastor Georg Crause of Wanfried - dated 16 January 1717.

Successit in officio pastorali

Joanni Philippo Rübenkam.

(He succeeded Johann Philipp Rübenkam in the pastoral office.)

Determination of the date of the Rubincam-Revercomb
Family's arrival in America

We have already seen (page 12) that Kurt Holzapfel discovered the date of Johann Philipp Rübencam's burial at Berleburg, in the countship of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburg, to which he had retired after losing the pastoral office at Vanfried. It was known that his widow, Margaretha Catharina (Sartorius) Rübencam, died in the spring of 1727 in Bristol Township, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. The exact date of her arrival, with her children, was not known, however. It was presumed to be before 1727, the year in which the extant passenger lists for the Pennsylvania Germans begin.

Mr. Donald F. Durnbaugh, Instructor in History at Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, has now filled this gap in our family history. In a letter dated 1 March 1959, he very graciously volunteered the following information:

While doing research in the Wittgenstein area of Germany on the early history of the Church of the Brethren, I came across some rare volumes published by the Inspirationists (Community of True Inspiration, now of Amana, Iowa). One of the early figures, Johann Adam Gruber, migrated to Pennsylvania from Wittgenstein in 1726.

In a collection of his letters from America published by his co-religionists in Germany in 1782, there is a moving description of his voyage, written from Germantown on Dec. 14, 1726. His ship had arrived in Philadelphia on Dec. 2 after a twenty-one week voyage from Rotterdam.

In a postscript, Gruber noted: "Weil ich und Frau Rübencamin uns nicht unter die Gesellschaft und deren elende allgemeine Bürgschaft geben wollen: so habe sehr viel von ihnen leiden müssen"

According to the expert on Wittgenstein history, the late Karl Hartnack, the widow of the Hessian pastor Johann Philipp Rübencamm migrated from Berleburg with "at least" five children in 1726. From other sources, I know that a large group of Wittgenstein residents traveled to Pennsylvania at this time.

In his article, "Johann Adam Gruber, Pennsylvania-German Prophet and Poet", published in the October 1959 issue of The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, Mr. Durnbaugh states that the voyage lasted 21 weeks, 15 weeks after leaving England. In footnote 25 he mentions our ancestress: "His fellow passenger was Frau Rübekam (Rubicam), in all probability the widow of the Hessian pastor, Johann Philipp Rübencam, who emigrated to America about this time with her large family, which became so prominent in later generations. See Karl Hartnack, 'Wittgenstein in der Weltkultur', Wittgenstein: Blätter des Wittgenstein Heimatvereins e.V., XLIV (1956), Vol. 20, No. 1/2, 34."

Record from the family Bible of John Wister

The clue that pointed to the original home in Germany of our family was provided by John Wister (Johannes Wüster), of Philadelphia and Germantown. With this document as a basis, we were able 25 years ago to commence researches in Germany, with the remarkable results that have been presented in the preceding pages. It is appropriate, therefore, that the following extract from John Wister's Bible record be included in this volume on the German documents in the archives of the family. It was communicated by Miss Frances Anne Wister, of Philadelphia, to Major Louis Estell Fagan 2nd, United States Marine Corps, on 19 December 1932, and by him to me on 21 August 1934:

Anna Katharina Rüben-Kämin was born in Hesse Cassel in the town of Wanfried, Feb. 25, 1709. She was daughter of Johann Philipp Ruben-Kamm, Pastor of the parish of Wanfried. After the death of the Father in 1726 [1725], at Berleburg in the countship of Wittgenstein, the Mother with her 6 children, 3 sons and 3 daughters, emigrated to Pennsylvania, and on the 10 Nov. 1737, Anna Katharina, intermarried with me, Johannes Wüster, and departed this life on 17 May 1770, between 5 and 6 o'clock in the afternoon, aged 61 years, 2 months, and 6 days. She bore 5 children, of whom 3 still survive. We lived and dwelt together 32 years, 5 months and 21 days, and I cherish the hope that she died in peace and bliss, so must (?) it be. Amen!"

Original Signatures in My Possession

On 25 August 1947, Kurt Holzapfel, of Eschwege, gave me a portion of an original document in his bank vault. The document was dated at Eschwege, 12 March 1680, and contained nine signatures, as follows:

Dr. Hieronymus Wetzell; Superintendent.

Georg Heiderich Heilman; Magistrate.

M(agister) LAURENTIUS RÜBENKAM mps (manu propria subscripsit -- signed with his own hand);

Metropolitan and Pastor of Eschwege-Altstadt.

ANDREAS RÜBENKAM; Pastor of Eschwege-Neustadt.

M(agister) Michael Wiskemann; Deacon of Eschwege-Altstadt.

Justus Henrich Schreiber mps; Tax-Collector.

Henrich Emerich Schreiber mps; Tax Clerk.

Johannes Holtzapffell mps; Burgomaster.

Johannes Gline (Gleim) mps; Burgomaster.

The main portion of the document deals with the settling of the church accounts in the classis (district) of Eschwege. In transmitting this piece of paper, now over 279 years old, Mr. Holzapfel commented that the above-named gentlemen did not devote themselves entirely to business, as the records show they consumed "quantities of wine".

The house on the Marktplatz at Eschwege, in which our ancestor, Andreas Rübenkam, lived, is still standing; thanks to Mr. Holzapfel's generosity, a snapshot of it is also in my possession.

Funeral orations by Laurentius and Johann Philipp Rübenkam

On 2 April 1950, Karl Friedrich von Frank, of Schloss Sentenegg, Post Perschnitz, Niederösterreich, Austria, informed me that the originals of the following funeral orations are in the collection of funeral orations of the Princes of Stolberg-Stolberg:

1. M(agister) Laurentius Ruebenkamm, Metropolitan at Eschwege, on 6 September 1680, delivered an address on the occasion of the burial of Guide Elisabeth Walther (married to the Councillor and Bailiff to the Prince of Hessen), born at Hamm, Westphalia, 16 December 1635, buried at Eschwege, 6 September 1680. Adjoined are: a funeral sermon and eulogy by M(agister) Mich. Wiskemann, preacher at Eschwege, and a poem by Hermann Bajer, physician at Eschwege. Printed by Samuel Kuerssner, Eschwege, quarto, 102 pages.

2. Johann Philipp Ruebenkamm, pastor at Wanfried, on 10 January 1707 delivered a funeral sermon and eulogy on the occasion of the burial of Melchior Krause, Burgomaster, Notary Public, and Scholarch, who was born at Witzenhausen, 27 October 1630, and was buried at Wanfried, 10 January 1707. Adjoined is a farewell address by Johannes Justus Siepell, rector at Wanfried. Printed by Matthias Groot, Allendorf/Werra, quarto, 56 pages.

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A BRIEF GENEALOGY OF THE RÜBENKAMS OF HESSEN

∟ In the foregoing pages we presented records, either in full or in abstract form, of the pre-American members of our family. In this section we portray concisely the genealogy of the parent stock, based on these records as well as on other records examined by our researchers, all of which will be cited below. ∟

FIRST GENERATION

1. HERMANN RÜBENKAM; living at Kassel, Hessen-Kassel; the probable father of Friedrich, a proved ancestor. Issue:
 2. Friedrich; see below.
 3. Jacob; confirmed at Kassel, 1614, aged 13. (See page 4, above.)
 4. Hans Caspar; buried at Abterode, 30 October 1635. (See page 7. We are assuming that Hans Caspar was a brother of Friedrich. Documentary proof is lacking at this writing.)

SECOND GENERATION

2. FRIEDRICH RÜBENKAM; born at Kassel, 1598; confirmed there, 1609; aged 11 years. Matriculated at the University of Marburg, 3 December 1617. Assistant Pastor at Niëderaula, near Hersfeld, 1623-26. Pastor of Frielingen, 1626-29. Exiled to Abterode as a result of Emperor Ferdinand II's Edict of Restitution, which authorized the restoration to the Catholics all ecclesiastical properties secularized since the Peace of Passau of 1552, 1629. Returned to Frielingen, December 1631. Removed to Herolz, 1634. Fled to Abterode as a result of the Croatian invasion, 1635. Pastor of Wichmannshausen, 1636-39. Pastor of Oetmannshausen, at the mouth of the Sontra River, 1639-47. Died 3 April 1647. Married ANNA GERTRUD UNDERBERG, daughter of Nicolaus Underberg (died at Frielingen, 5 December 1632), by his wife Anna (buried at Abterode, 14 October 1635), who was probably born a Rickgans. Issue:

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5. Johann Georg; see below.
6. Elisabeth; b. ca. 1631; bur. at Abterode, 5 Oct. 1635.
7. Anna Sibylla; b. ca. 1632; bur. at Abterode, 5 Oct. 1635, aged 3 years.
8. A daughter (name not given in the baptismal record);
bap. Frielingen, 2 May 1633 (godparents: The wife
of Junker Johann Rudolf Spede, "and my mother-in-law"
(atque socra mea)).
(Is this child to be identified with the daughter
Anna Sibylla, who was buried 5 Oct. 1635, aged
3 years?)
9. Christoph.
The only evidence for the existence of this person
is contained in the baptismal record (1665) of his
nephew, Christoph Beck. (See page 8.)
10. Son (name unknown); died at Oetmannshausen, 3
April 1647 (same day that his father died).
(See page 9.)
11. Laurentius; see below.
12. Andreas; see below.
13. Anna Gertrud; see below.
(For this family, see pages 4-9, 16.)

THIRD GENERATION

- 5.. JOHANN GEORG RÜBENKAM; born ca. 1626, probably at
Frielingen; died at Wanfried, 6 December 1680.
Rentmeister Tax-Collector) at Eschwege (of record
as such in 1667, when he was godfather to his nephew,
Johann Georg Beck, and in 1669, when he borrowed 500
Reichsthalers from Col. Jost von Hundelshausen for
Landgrave Ernst, of Hessen-Rheinfels. Subsequently
Bürgermeister (Burgomaster or Mayor) of Wanfried.
Married (1) _____, and (2) 30 November
1675, ELISABETH REXRODT. Issue (14-15, by first wife,
16-18 by second wife):
14. Friedrich; confirmed 1674; died at Eschwege,
16 Feb. 1676. (Probably Johann Georg's son; death
record found by Mr. Holzapfel in the Eschwege parish
registers. This is the only place in the family
to which he can be assigned.)
15. Johann Peter. Matriculated at the Hersfeld
Gymnasium, 1669. (See page 16.)
16. Kunegunda Juliana; b. at Wanfried, 3 Jan. 1677.
17. Johann Paul; see Fourth Generation.
18. Karl August; see Fourth Generation.
(For this family see pp. 8, 13-14, 16)

11. LAURENTIUS RÜBENIAM; died at Eschwege, 4 August 1681. Matriculated at the University of Harburg, 27 January 1657. Assistant Pastor at Eschwege-Neustadt, 1665. Pastor at Eschwege-Neustadt, 1666-70. Pastor at Eschwege-Altstadt, 1670-72. Metropolitan (Bishop) of Eschwege, 1672-81. Married (1) at Wanfried, 4 Sept. 1666, ANNA GERTRUD REISTERLINS (d. 9 Jan. 1674), and (2) at Eschwege, 18 Feb. 1675, CATHARINA MAGDALENA SCHREIBER (d. 26 May 1694), daughter of Justus Heinrich Schreiber, Tax-Collector of Hessen-Rheinfels. Issue (19 by 1st wife, 20-23 by 2nd wife):
19. Gude Elisabeth; bap. 3 Sept. 1667 (godmother, the Chief Magistrate's wife); d. June 1668.
20. Cadter Magdalena; bap. 2 Dec. 1675 (godmother, the wife of the Princely Hessian Tax-Collector, Justus Heinrich Schreiber); d. 5 Aug. 1676.
21. Johann Heinrich; bap. 10 Dec. 1676 (godfather, Herr Johannes Kröschell, Rector at Allendorf); confirmed at Eschwege, 1689; matriculated in 1692 at the Herborn High School in the countship of Nassau-Dillenburg. In 1693, with five other students at Herborn, he wrote a theological dissertation, Schriftmässige Untersuchung der Send-Schreiben an die sieben Gemeinden in Asien (Biblical Inquiry of the Epistles to the Seven Communities in Asia); an original copy of this work is in the Nassau State Library at Wiesbaden, and a photocopy of the title-page is in my collections. (No further record of Johann Heinrich?)
22. Anna Gertrud; bap. 1 May 1678 (godmother, the paternal grandmother, the widow of the deceased Pastor Friedrich Rübenkam of Oetmannshausen); confirmed at Eschwege, 1690.
23. Justus Heinrich; bap. 27 Aug. 1679 (godfather, his maternal grandfather, Tax-Collector Justus Heinrich Schreiber); d. at Eschwege, 11 Jan. 1681.
(For this family see pp. 8, 9-10, 16, 17.)

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12. ANDREAS RÜBENKAM; born at Oetmannshausen, 1642; confirmed there, Easter 1654, aged 12 years; died at Eschwege, 3 March and was buried there 9 March 1698. Matriculated at the University of Marburg, 5 May 1560, his residence then being described as Eschwege. Early career unknown, but he is known to have been Assistant Pastor at Eschwege-Neustadt. Succeeded his brother Laurentius as Pastor at Eschwege-Neustadt in 1672, when the latter was elevated to the metropolitanate of the classis. He held this position until his death in 1698. Married at Wanfried, 8 June 1669, CATHARINA JULIANA GLEIM, who was born at Rotenburg ca. 1647, was confirmed at Wanfried in 1661, and died at Eschwege, 22 November 1722.
- She was the daughter of Balthasar Gleim (1616-75), member of an old Eschwege family, rector of the Rotenburg School, and pastor at Wanfried from 1650 to 1675, by his wife, Anna Margaretha Crollius (1624-1707), daughter of Johannes Crollius (1599-1662), Dean (Bishop) of Rotenburg from 1634 to 1653, and Metropolitan (Bishop) of Hersfeld from 1653 until his death in 1662, by his wife, Catharina, daughter of Benedictus Geiter, of Breithard, in the Taunus Mountains, countship of Nassau-Weilburg. The Gleim family has been traced to the first half of the 16th century at Eschwege, and the Crollius family has a proved pedigree to 1447 at Marburg.
- Issue:
24. Johann Philipp; see Fourth Generation.
25. Johann Friedrich; b. at Wanfried, 25 Jan. 1672; matriculated at the University of Marburg, 13 Nov. 1688; Rector of the Eschwege School; d. at Eschwege, 10 July 1739.
26. Anna Margaretha; see Fourth Generation.
27. Catharina Elisabeth; b. at Eschwege, 10 March 1676; d. there, 2 June 1676.
28. Johann Andreas; b. at Eschwege, 10 May 1677; confirmed 1691; matriculated at the University of Marburg, 9 June 1696; m. 23 April 1710, Catharina Elisabeth Lüber. (No further record ?)
29. Michael Wilhelm; b. Eschwege, 19 Aug. 1680; confirmed 1694; d. at Eschwege, 18 Dec. 1734. Matriculated at the University of Marburg, 19 Sept. 1696.
30. Maria Juliana; b. at Eschwege, 24 June, 1684; d. there, 5 July 1684.
31. Johann Karl; b. at Eschwege, 11 July 1686; d. there, 19 April 1738.
32. Johann Georg Peter; b. at Eschwege, 29 July, bap. 7 Dec. 1689; d. there, 21 Feb. 1766.
- (For this family see pp. 16, 25, and my publications in the Bibliography.)

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13. ANNA GERTRUD RÜBENKAM; born at Oetmannshausen, ca. 1644; confirmed there Easter 1654, aged 14 years; buried at Oetmannshausen, 23 Dec. 1732; married (1) 15 Oct. 1660, OTTO BECK, and (2) 1 March 1682, JOHANNES WIDITZ, of Datterode (buried at Oetmannshausen 30 May 1696).
Issue by 1st husband (Surname BECK):
33. Christoph; bap. at Oetmannshausen, 19 Feb. 1665 (godfather, his maternal uncle, Christoph Rübenkam).
34. Johann Georg; bap. at Oetmannshausen, 24 Feb. 1667 (godfather, his maternal uncle, Johann Georg Rübenkam). He was matriculated at the University of Marburg, 26 May 1686.
35. Laurentius; bap. at Oetmannshausen, 11 July 1669 (godfather, his maternal uncle, Laurentius Rübenkam, pastor of Eschwege-Neustadt).
Issue by 2nd husband (Surname WIDITZ):
36. Catharina Juliana; bap. at Oetmannshausen, 19 Feb. 1684 (godmother, her aunt by marriage, Catharina Juliana, wife of Andreas Rübenkam, pastor of Eschwege-Neustadt).
(For this family, see pp. 8-9, 16.)

It is interesting to note that Anna Gertrud (Rübenkam) (Beck) Widitz died in 1732, aged 88, six years after her grandnephew Johann Philipp Rübenkam's widow, Margaretha Catharina, brought her family to America. This remote aunt of ours, Anna Gertrud, was born during the last years of the Thirty Years' War (1618-48), and during her long lifetime of nearly 90 years, witnessed stirring events in the history of her family, including the downfall of her grandnephew, Johann Philipp Rübenkam.

FOURTH GENERATION

- 17 JOHANN PAUL RÜBENIAM; born at Wanfried, 7 June 1679; died at Eschwege, 24 Dec. 1738; m. (1) 27 May 1711, ANNA GERTRUD BRILL (bap. 31 Aug. 1692, d. 15 April 1729), and (2) 26 April 1731, ANNA MARIA BRILL. Issue (all born at Eschwege; 37-46 by 1st wife, 47 by 2nd wife):
37. Johann Georg; bap. 16 July 1712 (godfather, Herr Carl Rübenkam, Steward at Vach --- probably his uncle, Karl August Rübenkam).
38. Martin; bap. 7 Feb. 1715 (godfather, Herr Martin Brill); d. 25 May 1715.
39. Maria Elisabeth; bap. 15 April 1716 (godmother, Herr Martin Brill's daughter); m. 28 Jan. 1742, Johannes Reitz, Candidatus Theologiae (Candidate in Theology), son of Johann Adam Reitz, who was in the service of the school at Kiddawitzhausen.
40. Margaretha Elisabeth; bap. 6 April 1718 (godmother, Georg Gemeling's wife); m. 6 June 1741, Ensign Ernst Conrad Fiedler, as his second wife. He was the widower of Anna Catharina Richart. By occupation he was a cloth-worker, and was Master of the Cloth-workers' Guild at Eschwege. (See Dr. Erich Bartholomäus "Die Meister der Tuchmacherzunft seit 1637", Hessische Familienkunde, Band 2, Heft 10, Dezember 1953, column 365.)
41. Catharina Elisabeth; bap. 7 Sept. 1720; d. 8 Dec. 1720. (Godmother, Lorentz Brill's wife.)
42. Christina Margaretha; bap. 23 Dec. 1721 (godmother, the daughter of Hieronymus Dircks, pastor of Eschwege-Neustadt); m. 13 June 1743, Johann Wilhelm Francke, Judge at Biedendorf.
43. Anna Elisabeth (the elder); bap. 21 June 1724 (godmother, the wife of Herr Langhans, of Kassel); m. 13 Nov. 1748, Johann Philipp Schreiber, merchant.
44. Catharina Elisabeth (the younger; see no. 41); bap. 31 Dec. 1726 (godmother, Lorentz Brill's wife).
45. Conrad; bap. 13 April 1729; d. 17 Sept. 1729. (Godfather, Martin Brill's son.)
46. Anna Elisabeth (the younger; see no. 43); bap. 29 Dec. 1728; possibly d. 1 Nov. 1729, when it was recorded that a daughter, name not given, of Johann Paul Rübenkam died.
47. Anton Friedrich; b. 31 March 1736; d. Hannoverisch-Münden, 29 Nov. 1801; m. 20 June 1769, Marie Elisabeth Selling. (Ancestors of the Rübenkamp Family of Hannoverisch-Münden, Hamburg, and Dresden, and the Rubencamp Family of the United States. One of his descendants, Felice Rübenkamp, of Dresden, has assisted me with researches on her branch of the family.)

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18. KARL AUGUST RÜBENKAM; baptized at Wanfried, 7 July 1681; death date unknown. He was a baker by occupation. He probably was steward of an estate at Kleinvach, near Allendorf, in 1712, for the godfather of his nephew, Johann Georg Rübenkam (no. 37) was recorded as Herr Carl Rübenkam, Steward at Vach. In 1742 he was Burgo-master (Mayor) of Wanfried, the same office held by his father, Johann Georg. Strauss erroneously calls him Rübeseam and Rübenseam in his Chronik der Stadt Wanfried (1903), pp. 119, 213. His house in Wanfried was located on the Marktstrasse (Market Street) (Strauss, p. 213). His wife's name is unknown, but he had the following children:
- 48. Johann Christian; bap. 26 April 1716 (godfather, Christian Rohrbach, of Sontra).
 - 49. Anna Gertrud; bap. 1 June 1718 (godmother, Johann Paul Rübenkam's wife); d. 19 March 1720.
 - 50. Kunegunda Juliana (twin of Anna Gertrud); bap. 1 June 1718 (godmother, her father's sister, Kunegunda Juliana Rübenkam; m. 6 Nov. 1742, Johann Christoph Daniel).
 - 51. Maria Elisabeth; bap. 17 Feb. 1721 (godmother, the wife of Herr Johann Hermann Uckermann, wine-dealer).
 - 52. Johann Heinrich; bap. 3 Nov. 1723 (godfather, Johann Heinrich Hieronymus jun., baker).
 - 53. Maria Christina; m. 12 Oct. 1752, Thimotheus Rexrodt.

/ [The sources of information for the families of Johann Paul Rübenkam and Karl August Rübenkam are the parish registers of Eschwege and Wanfried, examined by Kurt Holzapfel, of Eschwege.]

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24. JOHANN PHILIPP RÜBENKAM; born at Wanfried, 20 April 1670; bur. at Berleburg, 25 Feb. 1725. Matriculated at the University of Marburg, 25 April 1687. Pastor of Wanfried from 2 January 1698 until December 1716 or January 1717, when he was unfrocked and exiled because of his open advocacy of the Pietist religion, which he believed was superior to his ancestral faith, the Reformed (Calvinist) Church. Sought refuge at Berleburg, in the countship of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburg, which was friendly to Pietists and other separatists.

(Note:- See page 19 for a discussion of the date when Johann Philipp Rübenkam became pastor of Wanfried. Strauss, in his Chronik der Stadt Wanfried (1908), page 99, states it was 2. Juni 1698, which I have interpreted as being a misreading of 2. Januar. However, a review of my records just now reveals that many years ago the Burgomaster of Wanfried gave me 16 January 1698, as the date of Rübenkam's installation.

On 19 July 1699, he married at Reichensachsen, near Eschwege, MARGARETHA CATHARINA SARTORIUS, who was baptized at Reichensachsen, 26 February 1684, and was confirmed there at Easter 1695, the record reading: "Margarethe Catharina Sartorin, Ehren M. Mathäae Sartorii, Pfarrers zu Wichmannshausen, Tochter". At the time of her marriage she was 15½ years old.

Margaretha Catharina was the daughter of Matthias Sartorius (originally Schneider, which means tailor). He was matriculated at the University of Marburg, 24 March 1664, when he was described as being from Sontra, Hessen-Kassel. His parentage is unknown, nor do we know much about his early life. On 14 October 1680, when he as pastor of Wichmannshausen, he married Anna Juliana von Boyneburg genannt Hohenstein (1646-1703), and thus allied his family, and that of his future son-in-law, Johann Philipp Rübenkam, with one of the most powerful feudal houses of the principality of Hessen, the history of which goes back eight centuries. Her immediate ancestry may be delineated as follows:

Jost v. Boyneburg gen. Hohenstein (d. 1589); co-owner, Elberberg Castle; m. (1) Catharina von Buttlar, and (2) ----- von Falken-Röhrda

Lt. Col. Jost (1554-1619) (by 1st wife) Philipp (1556-); m.
m. (2) Anna von Hanstein-Bornhagen Christine v. Kochberg

" Jost Christoph; m. Sabine von
" ----- Scholley
Curt Leopold (1609-73) ---m. ---Sabine Sibylle (1611-74)
of Reichensachsen

Anna Juliana (1646-1703); m. Matthias Sartorius.

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At the present time I am preparing a detailed history of the House of Boyneburg, which will be published (in mimeographed form) in 1960.

Issue of Johann Philipp Rübenkam and Margaretha Catharina Sartorius:

54. Friedrich Wilhelm; b. ca. 1700-02; d. Bristol Township, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, 1736. Apparently unmarried.
55. Catharina Juliana; bap. 4 Oct. 1703 (godmother, Catharina Agneta Crollius, daughter of the deceased Metropolitan of Sontra, Johannes Crollius); m. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 24 November Jacob Colladay.
56. Justus Wilhelm; bap. 6 Aug. 1705 (godfather, Justus Walther Krauss, Bailiff at Kronberg); d. Bristol Township, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, 1768; married (1) 5 July 1735, Katharine Conreds (no issue), (2) Feb. 1741/2, Susannah Rittenhouse (by whom he was ancestor of the Rubincam Family of St. Louis, Missouri, Ycunders of the Rubincam School there).
57. Karl Wilhelm; bap. 5 May 1707 (godfather, his paternal uncle, the theological candidate Michael Wilhelm Rübenkam); d. Springfield Township, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, 1748; married, as her first husband, Barbara Rittenhouse. (Ancestors of the Rubincam Family of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and Chicago, Illinois; the Revercomb Family of Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Canada, etc.; the Rubencame Family of Delaware; the Rubincam-Rubincam Family of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Washington State, etc.)
58. Anna Catharina; b. 25 Feb. 1709; bap. 27 Feb. 1709; (godmother, Frau Anna Catharina, wife of Johannes Goddefahrt, Burgomaster of Witzenhausen); d. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 2 May 1770; m. 10 Nov. 1737, John Wister (Johannes Wüster).
59. Johanna Catharina; b. 31 May 1711 (godmother, Frau Johanna, wife of Jacob Wilhelm Uckermann). No further record.
60. Margaretha Catharina; b. 5 July 1713 (godmother, her paternal aunt, Frau Anna Margaretha, wife of Herr Hieronymus Weichard Dirksen, Pastor of Eschwege-Neustadt). No further record.

Through their daughters, Catharina Juliana and Anna Catharina, Johann Philipp and Margaretha Catharina (Sartorius) Rübenkam were ancestors of the distinguished Philadelphia families of Colladay, Meng, Ogden, Zell, Fagan, Wister, Toland, the Philadelphia branch of the patrician Meyer von Schauensee family of Switzerland, and a branch of the princely Lante della Rovere family of Rome, Italy.

(For this family, see pp. 11-12, 16, 18-2426.

Also, researches of Kurt Holzapfel and Karl Friedrich v. Frank among the parish registers of Wanfried.)

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26. ANNA MARGARETHA RÜBENKAM; born at Eschwege, 4 Nov. 1673; married there, 1 June 1699, HIERONYMUS WIGARD (WEYCHARDUS, WEICHARD) DIRCKS (DIRISEN). He was born at Eschwege, in 1664, being baptized there 7 March of that year. He was matriculated at the University of Marburg in 1683, became a teacher in the Eschwege School, and attained the office of Konrektor of the school in 1697. Meanwhile, he was assistant pastor of Eschwege-Neustadt in 1692, when his father-in-law, Andreas Rübenkam, was the pastor. Dircks did not become pastor of Eschwege-Neustadt until 1706. He edited two works of a theological nature. There is a concise notice of him in Strieder's Grundlage zu einer hessischen Gelehrten und Schriftsteller Geschichte, vol. III (1785).
Issue (Surname DIRCKS): (All born at Eschwege)
61. Ernst Andreas; b. 11 March 1700 (godfather, Herr Cappellan Andreas Knobel; matriculated at the University of Marburg, 1716. Lawyer at Eschwege.
62. Catharina Margaretha; b. 2 Feb. 1702; d. at Berlin, Prussia, 11 July 1770; m. 28 Aug. 1725, as his 2nd wife, Johann Philipp Heinius. The latter was a distinguished scholar. He was born at Kassel, 6 Jan. 1688, was educated at the Schmalkalden Gymnasium and the University of Bremen, and became a professor at the University of Halle in 1712. His first marriage, to a Fräulein Heiden, was cut short by her death. The University of Frankfurt-on-the-Oder honored him with the degree of Doctor of Theology. He took up his duties as Rector of the Joachimsthal Gymnasium at Berlin in 1730. He was elected a Member of the Prussian Royal Academy of Sciences in 1732, and on its reorganization became Director of the Academy's Class of Philosophy in 1744. He wrote numerous learned papers for the Academy's proceedings. He died at Berlin, 8 Aug. 1775, having had issue by both wives. His biography was published in the Memoirs of the Royal Academy of Science for 1776, pp. 62-67.
63. Ernst Ludwig; b. 27 Feb. 1704 (godfather, Jacob Ernst Boclo). Lieutenant. Later a merchant at Bremen.
64. Philipp Wilhelm; b. 31 Aug. 1706 (godfather, his maternal uncle, Pastor Johann Philipp Rübenkam, of Wanfried). Matriculated at Marburg, 1724.
65. Johanna Catharina; b. 21 March 1709 (godmother, her father's sister, Anna Catharina, wife of Burgomaster Johannes Goddefahrt).

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66. Johann Friedrich; b. 20 Sept. 1712 (godfather, Superintendent von Hanthausen, of Allendorf. Lawyer. Married 28 Oct. 1743, Catharina Elisabeth, daughter of the apothecary Joh. Heinrich Kalckhof.
67. Catharina Elisabeth; d. or was bur. on 9 Sept. 1718. (Date of birth or baptism not given in the Dircks family record transmitted to me by Kurtholzappel on 11 December 1949. However, her godmother was her paternal grandmother, Catharina Elisabeth Bärmännin, widow of the late Burgomaster Friedrich Dircks, or Dircksen.)

(The sources for the family of Hieronymus Wigard Dircks and his wife, Anna Margaretha Rübenkam, are the parish registers of Eschwege, examined by Kurt Holzappel, who sent me a pedigree of this family going back to the 16th century on 11 December 1949.) The family was originally of Dutch descent, resided for a time at Emden and for several generations, and settled at Eschwege, Hessen-Rheinfels, in the person of Pastor Hieronymus Wigard's father, the Burgomaster Friedrich.)

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